



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA REFUGEE DAY

WHEREAS, Article 14 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution in other countries; and the United Nations has designated June 20th as a day to focus on the human rights that are being denied to millions of individuals around the world; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,800 refugees and persons seeking asylum because of wars, human rights violations, and fear of persecution or death began making new lives in Virginia in 2004; and

WHEREAS, since 1975 more than 50,000 refugees from more than 80 different countries have resettled in the Commonwealth through the efforts of organizations who contract with the Virginia Office of Newcomer Services, a unit within the Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Family Services, and the Virginia Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, refugees have the right to live in conditions of dignity, respect, and peace and are entitled to enjoy the same rights and access to employment, social services, health services and education as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is committed to supporting the resettlement, integration and self-sufficiency of refugees into its communities; and

WHEREAS, refugees deserve recognition for their courage, spirit and contributions to our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize June 20, 2005, as **VIRGINIA REFUGEE DAY** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Mark R. Warner
Governor

Anita A. Rindler
Secretary of the Commonwealth